

“ PPP ”

## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

### Policing North Wales -- Chief Officers Current Blogs

#### Silent Night by Chief Constable Brunstrom --- PPP highlights

*I spent New Year's Eve out on patrol in Wrexham, **as is my wont**. The evening was remarkably quiet with very little happening in the town centre. There are two reasons for this, I think. Firstly, the night time economy there is now extremely well run after some years of **joint effort by the police and local authority in utilising the much improved licensing law** to the full; and secondly, our society seems to have changed -noticeably fewer people are going out to the pubs and clubs to celebrate New Year. As usual though, we had a wide range of incidents to deal with in the outskirts, of which more later.*

***I got involved in a couple of hands-on incidents.** The first was a man who had been ejected from one of the town centre clubs for poor behaviour which he then proceeded to repeat on the street in front of me and the local Inspector. All went well until the handcuffing, at which point he decided to fight, and a strong guy he turned out to be. A *mêlée* ensued **and we fell to the ground in a struggling heap with the Inspector expertly pinning and immobilising a pair of thrashing legs. Unfortunately they were mine**, not the offenders. With the assistance of other officers we got the situation under control and put our prisoner in a van uninjured. **He later got a fixed penalty notice for being drunk and disorderly.***

*The second incident was more complicated. A domestic dispute resulted in police being called to find the offender shouting loudly in the rear garden of a house and **brandishing a horribly large kitchen knife**. A stand-off developed, with the police guarding the rear gate to prevent the offender's escape pending the arrival of reinforcements. I was in the 'rowdy van', which was equipped with riot shields. We deployed to the scene, but I then discovered to my surprise that **I was the only shield trained officer present**. The standard tactic for these situations, aptly known as the 'angry man scenario', is for two officers to lock two shields together, behind which they shelter with a third officer grasping their waists to bind the whole together like part of a rugby scrum. The ensemble then rushes the subject, seeking to pin him into a corner where he can then be safely disarmed. It is a remarkably effective manoeuvre, but not without some risk in the dark, in a garden with few hard corners, **an offender who did not understand English, and untrained staff.***

*While preparing the assault (with me behind one of the shields) a colleague who shall remain nameless wisely decided to test his Captor spray – but accidentally bounced it off the back of the shields, **catching me neatly with a drop in one eye**. Luckily it was only a small drop. This was going to be a tricky operation with the shields, but we had a better option. **Taser had been called for**, and since we had the situation safely contained we decided to wait for it to arrive, which after a few minutes it duly did. **Two** Taser equipped officers confidently marched in behind shields, **tasering the offender** who promptly dropped the knife; we then rushed him to the ground in another *mêlée* during which I was able to safely recover the knife from under the struggling mound. **The usual crowd of local onlookers clapped and cheered our success.***

*Although a quiet night by our definition you might be interested to learn that the police **arrested a total of 14 people in the Wrexham area that night**, for these offences: affray 3, drunk & disorderly 1, ABH 3, disorderly behaviour 3, breach of the peace 1, criminal damage 1, and drink driving 2.*

*That's New Year's Eve for you, and the end of 2008. Now for 2009.....*

**The PPP comments ... The CC describes a comedy of errors and we remember a similar incident of him rolling around on the ground. At that time we were concerned about damage to the expensive silver braided uniform and the silk shirt, recently issued to all senior officers. Now they are all attired suitably for rolling on the ground. But seriously, we don't expect, and neither do his subordinates, to see him doing so. This embarrassing blog describes lack of training (shields) poorly targeted 'rolling around', careless use of spray and poor preparation for expected violence. Why weren't Tasers available and trained officers allocated to such an obvious confrontational situation. Thank goodness no guns were being used, the CC could so easily have been shot like a bullock!. We cannot imagine any senior Manager in any real world company behaving so in front of the customer and being so blasé afterwards. There have been many such cases in which their own YouTube videos have highlighted their faux pas.**

Reflections in the Water by DCC Wolfendale --- *2009 promises to be an interesting year. Whilst in Pwllheli this week I was moved to ponder on what might be in store.* The DCCs YouTube video is at .... <http://www.north-wales.police.uk/portal/blogs/dcc/default.aspx>

**The PPP comments ... DCC Wolfendale's Video address to the people of North Wales with all it's, not so subtle, innuendo about his favourite subjects (guess what?) is equally annoying. Currently on the NWPF website is this story.....**

### **Flares missing**

Police are urging people to be extremely careful if they come across distress flares which were **stolen from a Bangor boat yard**. A variety of flares in orange and red casings were stolen from **Dickies Boatyard** in Bangor overnight **between the 3rd and 4th of January, when nine boats were damaged in the yard**. One of the flares, in particular, if ignited could cause serious injury. This is a Parachute Rocket, which is described as being cylindrical in shape, 11" by 2", red in colour bearing the name "IKAROS" on it. **Sgt Sophie Woods** said "*We would urge anyone who finds them to treat them with extreme caution and contact police immediately.*"

Anyone who comes into contact with the flares is asked to contact **Sgt Woods at Bangor Police Station** on **0845 6071001 (Welsh line), 0845 6071002**

**Key points are .... the Daily Post reports that Nine boats were trashed! .... Most boat owners work hard to maintain their boats often spending disproportionate Time and Money doing so, insurance often doesn't cover everything, often the boat is never the same again.**

**What cover does the £500/annum that NW police costs each household provide?. Bangor police Station is listed as being 'open' from 0800 to 2200 but is not always occupied . The phone numbers listed are for the St Asaph switchboard. How often if ever do patrols randomly check on properties like Dickie's where £Millions worth of boats spend the winter?**

**We would really appreciate the chief officers addressing these issues of security and crime.**